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## *Cease-Fire Developments*

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## *Cease-Fire Developments*

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LAOS

The Military Situation

A small Communist unit over the weekend blew up a bridge on Route 13 near the provincial capital of Paksane. Paksane is on the Mekong near the junction of Route 4 and 13, some 40 miles south of Tha Viang. North Vietnamese units that had been in Tha Viang are now moving back toward the Plaine des Jarres. [REDACTED]

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Pathet Lao Delegation Continues Tour

Nouhak Phoumsavan, the second-ranking Lao Communist leader, and a party of lesser functionaries left Peking on 23 April for North Korea. Nouhak and his delegation began their tour with a three-day stay in Hanoi beginning on 13 April. Nouhak is probably discussing aid agreements, but his talks with the North Vietnamese and Chinese may have touched on political and military strategy. [REDACTED]

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CAMBODIA

Political Progress

One of the few remaining obstacles to the formation of a supreme political council was removed on 23 April when both houses of the legislature approved a resolution creating a council and endorsed its special authority outside the framework of the con-

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[REDACTED]

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More Fuel for Phnom Penh

A Mekong resupply convoy reached Phnom Penh from South Vietnam on schedule on 23 April. The convoy consisted of six tankers, which reportedly delivered 400,000 gallons of fuel, and two cargo vessels carrying ammunition and food supplies. While en route the convoy came under Communist fire, but only minor damage was done. The operation of the convoy was well-coordinated between the Cambodians and the South Vietnamese. [REDACTED]

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The Military Situation

The Khmer Communists on 22 April carried out another brief mortar attack on Phnom Penh's large southern suburb of Takhmau. There were only a few casualties. [REDACTED]

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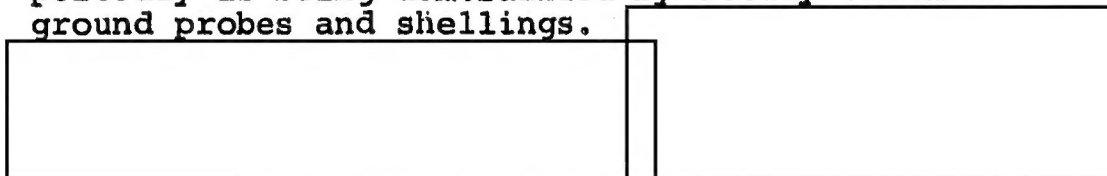


Government reinforcements assigned the task of retaking Siem Reap, ten miles south of the capital, have now joined elements of the Cambodian brigade recently driven out of that village. At last report, the positions of the combined force were being probed by the Communists.

Despite heavy US air support, the Khmer Communists are keeping up the pressure farther south on Route 2 against the provincial capital of Takeo. Takeo's defensive perimeter is shrinking, and its garrison reportedly is being demoralized by steady Communist ground probes and shellings.

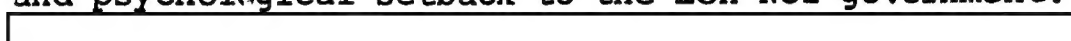
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The loss of Takeo would be a major military and psychological setback to the Lon Nol government.

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SOUTH VIETNAMThe Military Situation

In the delta, South Vietnamese forces are still meeting stiff resistance in the Hong Ngu area near the Cambodian border. The government says that the Communists are moving two main force regiments from Dinh Tuong Province into the border area to reinforce Communist units there. The government also claims that additional North Vietnamese troops, normally located north of Saigon in Binh Long Province, may be moving in. Some Communist reinforcement of their positions along the banks of the Mekong River just inside Cambodia has been detected; so far the reinforcement has not been of the magnitude claimed by the South Vietnamese.

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